

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hua Wenyi

Former Artistic Director of the Shanghai Kunju Opera Company and recipient of the Plum Blossom Award (China's highest artistic honor), Madam Hua is considered by many to be the leading proponent of the refined female style of Kun opera acting. Hua Wenyi is currently teaching a new course on Chinese opera performance in the Department of Dramatic Art at Berkeley.

Wang Taiqi

A graduate of the Shanghai Drama Institute and former member of the Shanghai Kunju Opera Company, Wang Taiqi studied the young male role type under the great Kun opera actor, Yu Zhenfei.

Qin Ruisheng

A graduate of the Shanghai Drama Institute and former member of the Shanghai Kunju Opera Company, Qin Ruisheng is known both as a performer of old male roles, and as an award-winning stage director.

Huang Meiyun

A graduate of the Shanghai Drama Institute, Huang Meiyun joined the Zhejiang Kunju Opera Company in 1961. Madam Huang trained and performed refined female roles, but in recent years has been frequently seen performing young male roles.

Gao Mingliang

Gao Mingliang is a musician trained in the small drum and wooden clappers: the lead percussion instruments in both the Kun and Beijing opera orchestras. Mr. Gao is a former member of the Shanghai Beijing Opera Company.

Zou Youjun

A graduate of the Shanghai Drama Institute, Zou Youjun performed the horizontal bamboo flute, *dizi*, with the Shanghai Kunju Opera Company until his recent arrival in the United States.

About Hua Kun Opera

Hua Kun Opera is a non-profit arts organization which produces artistic and educational programs introducing Kun opera, and other forms of traditional Chinese theatre, to American audiences. Since 1990, Hua Kun Opera artists have performed in the 1990 Los Angeles Festival, the 1991 Festival Internacional de Teatro Madrid, and have led educational programs at UCLA, Antioch University, Ohio, and UC Berkeley.

